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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/66/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/66/100 and Add.1).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 65/539 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-sixth session, the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session (A/66/150), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues and debates

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, interactive dialogues and "question time" will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. The general discussion of each agenda item or cluster of agenda items is to follow the "question time".

Statements

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be opened on Monday, 26 September 2011.

Please recycle

5. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee, statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be limited to 7 minutes for individual delegations and to 15 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations.

6. Under item 69 of the provisional agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and one statement under sub-item (d), which are to be discussed sequentially. Under sub-items (b) and (c), which are to be considered jointly, delegations may make two separate statements (one under sub-item (b) and one under sub-item (c)).

7. Under items 67, "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", and 68, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements.

8. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The first statement should be limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.

List of documents

9. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (to be issued as A/C.3/66/L.1/Add.1), which will list the documentation submitted under each agenda item expected to be allocated to the Third Committee.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

10. Unless otherwise specified, official meetings of the Committee will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start of meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, it is proposed that rule 108 of the Committee's rules of procedure be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

11. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently, it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that related to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned, for final action by the Assembly (see document A/59/250/Add.1).

Report of the Human Rights Council

12. In its resolution 65/281, entitled "Review of the Human Rights Council", the General Assembly decided to continue its practice of allocating the agenda item entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Third Committee, in accordance with its decision 65/503 A, with the additional understanding that the President of the Council will present the report in her or his capacity as President to the plenary of the Assembly and the Third

Committee and that the Third Committee will hold an interactive dialogue with the President of the Council at the time of her or his presentation of the report of the Council to the Third Committee. Pending final confirmation from the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council, agenda item 64, "Report of the Human Rights Council", has been tentatively scheduled for consideration in the draft programme of work of the Third Committee during the morning of 28 October 2011.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

13. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Third Committee, a target date of 22 November has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 3-7 October		
Monday, 3 October		
10 a.m.		Election of officers
		Organizational matters
	Item 135	**Programme planning**
		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 27	**Social development**
		(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
		(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
		(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 27
3 p.m.	**Item 27**	General discussion (*continued*)
Tuesday, 4 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 27**	General discussion (*concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 27
Wednesday, 5 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 107	**Crime prevention and criminal justice**
	Item 108	**International drug control**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 107 and 108
3 p.m.	**Items 107 and 108**	General discussion (*continued*)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Thursday, 6 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 107 and 108**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 107 and 108
Week of 10-14 October		
Monday, 10 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 28	**Advancement of women**
		(a) Advancement of women
		(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 28
3 p.m.	**Item 28**	General discussion (*continued*)
Tuesday, 11 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 28**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 12 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 28**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 28
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 65	**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**
		(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 65
Thursday, 13 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 65**	General discussion (*continued*)
3 p.m.	**Item 65**	Action on proposals
		General discussion (*continued*)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Friday, 14 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 65**	General discussion (*concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 65
Week of 17-21 October		
Monday, 17 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 66	**Rights of indigenous peoples**
		(a) Rights of indigenous peoples
		(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 66
3 p.m.	**Item 66**	General discussion (*concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 66
Tuesday, 18 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 69	**Promotion and protection of human rights**
		(a) Implementation of human rights instruments
		Followed by introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 69	**(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 69 (a) and (d)
3 p.m.	**Item 69 (d)**	General discussion (*concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 69 (a) and (d)
Wednesday, 19 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
	Item 69	**Promotion and protection of human rights**
		(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
		(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 69 (b) and (c)
3 p.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
Thursday, 20 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
3 p.m.		Action on proposals under items 27, 28, 65, 107 and 108, followed by dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Friday, 21 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Week of 24-28 October		
Monday, 24 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Tuesday, 25 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*concluded*), followed by general discussion (*resumed*)
3 p.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 26 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	General discussion (*continued*)
Thursday, 27 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 69 (b) and (c)**	General discussion (*continued*)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
3 p.m.		Action on proposals, followed by general discussion (*concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 69 (b) and (c)
Friday, 28 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statement by the President of the Human Rights Council followed by an interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 64	**Report of the Human Rights Council**[b]
11 a.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 64
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 64
Week of 31 October-4 November		
Monday, 31 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 67	**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**
		(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
		(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	Item 68	**Right of peoples to self-determination**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 67 and 68
3 p.m.	**Items 67 and 68**	General discussion (*continued*)
Tuesday, 1 November		
10 a.m.	**Items 67 and 68**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 67 and 68
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 62	**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 62
Wednesday, 2 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 62**	General discussion (*concluded*)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 62
Thursday, 3 November		
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 7-11 November		
Tuesday, 8 November		
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Friday, 10 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 14-18 November		
Tuesday, 15 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 17 November		
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of all outstanding draft proposals
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 21-25 November		
Monday, 21 November		
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Tuesday, 22 November		
10 a.m.	**Item 121**	**Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**[c]
		Action on outstanding proposals
3 p.m.		Action on outstanding proposals
		Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

[a] Item of the provisional agenda (A/66/150).

[b] Tentative date of consideration of the item, pending final confirmation.

[c] The agenda item is to be allocated to the Third Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the tentative programme of work of the Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.